bathing ghats, plantation and public participation. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 431.87 crore has been incurred on the action plan. In addition to two sewage treatment plants constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi, the Government of National Capial Territory of Delhi has taken up a plan to construct another 14 sewage treatment plants out of their own plan budget to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day. Out of these, 7 have already been completed and 6 are in advanced stages of completion and will be completed by March, 2001. Tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. The shortfall in the present generation of sewage and the proposed capacity of sewage treatment in Delhi is mainly due to the present policy of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi not to provide sewerage system in the unauthorized colonies and slums. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging waste water into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to sewage treatment plants. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river against which all the riparian States except Delhi have started releasing their share. As a measure to tackle industrial pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also issued closure orders to 3198 identified water polluting units.

Delegation of Power for Drug Import Licences

*91. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that licencing authority under Rule 21 of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules have delegated power of signing import licences in Form 10 for import of drugs and pharmaceuticals and diagnostic kits to any other person under his control;

(b) if so, to whom such powers have been delegated for signing such licences;

(c) whether such delegation of power was done with the approval of Central Government;

(d) if so, the details of the Gazette Notification, number and the date of issue; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) The Office of Drugs Controller General of India receives a large number of applications for issue of import licences. The Drug Controller is the designated licensing authoity. Keeping in view the need to expedite the processing of such approvals and for the purpose of administrative convenience, the work of signing import licences after taking approval of the Drug Controller on file was entrusted for sometime to a senior officer under the control of Drug Controller. This practice has since been discontinued.

Payment of Subsidy

*92. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have slashed the annual payment of subsidy to some of the defaulting fertilizer firms in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU): (a) Subsidy outgo under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme has been reduced by an interim reassessment of capacity given effect to from 1-4-2000.

(b) The interim reassessment carried out w.e.f 1.4.2000 has resulted in upward revision in the assessed level of production of high